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IPL READY TO FLY OFF TO UAE, MINISTRY APPROVAL SOUGHT

Though not ruled out, uncertainty over Covid-19 situation casts shadow over T20 extravaganza taking place in India

SITUATION BETTER IN GULF COUNTRY

Return of normalcy and resumption of flight operations from UAE to UK, Australia, US factors favouring Gulf nation. Request to stage IPL has been sent to ministries of home, external affairs and sports. IPL Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel says state-of-the-art infrastructure is also a reason why the BCCI wants to stage the event in UAE |P17

IPL 2014 ADDED ADVANTAGE FOR UAE

- UAE is not a new destination for IPL. Part of the 2014 edition was held there due to the Lok Sabha elections in India
- Franchises and team owners to be informed about details and logistics after IPL Governing Council meeting
- Emirates Cricket Board to be approached after ministry approval

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IF IN UAE, IPL MATCHES WILL TAKE PLACE IN SHARJAH, ABU DHABI, DUBAI

Lockdown not a solution, can't have it anymore: CM

Stresses on 5 Ts, says state govt's focus is on rebuilding lives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Tuesday declared that the lockdown is not a solution to contain the spread of Covid-19 and stressed that wearing masks and maintaining social distance is the only effective way to fight the pandemic. He sought cooperation from people and leaders of opposition parties.

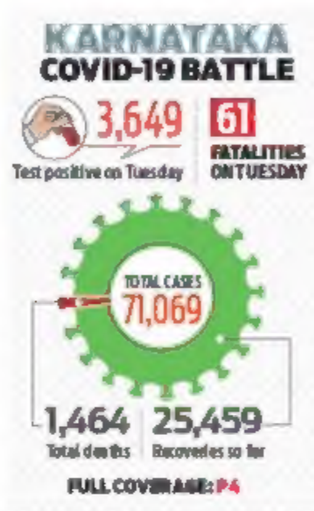
The weeklong lockdown in Bengaluru will end early on Wednesday and the CM stressed that it will not be extended. However, restrictions will be strictly enforced in the containment zones. On Tuesday, Karnataka reported 3,649 new cases, taking the state Covid-19 tally to 71,069, which includes 1,464 deaths.

"Lockdown is not a solution and there is no question of lockdown in Bengaluru or any other district. People need to wear masks and maintain social distancing to prevent the spread," the CM said during his 22-minute address to the people of the state. The CM's address was streamed live on social media platforms. "I have told the district deputy commissioners not to talk about lockdowns, to ensure people wear masks and maintain social distancing and also to take other measures required to contain the spread," he said, referring to an increase in cases in districts.

A woman undergoes Rapid Antigen Testing in Bengaluru | PARSHURAMPUR

Emphasising the need to revive economic activities in the state, the CM said the government needs to focus on resource mobilisation and rebuilding livelihoods even as it takes measures to fight the pandemic.

"We are doing everything possible and there is no need to panic, but we all need to take adequate precautions to prevent the spread," the CM said, and explained various measures taken by the government, including its focus on 5Ts — Trace, Track, Test, Treat and Technology CONTINUED ON: P5



FULL COVERAGE: P4

THE STATE FIGHTS BACK

- From Wednesday, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will have review meetings with ministers in charge of the eight BBMP zones
- All major markets in Bengaluru, except Chickpet, will remain closed
- Nearly 100 employees of JK Tyres factory in Mysuru tested positive in the last two days, source of infection still a mystery
- In a new strategy, Shivamogga City Corporation will enforce cluster lockdown from Thursday

GEHLOT UNEASY AS COURT RESERVES ORDER TILL FRIDAY

RAJESH ASNANI & RICHA SHARMA @ Jaipur / New Delhi

THE Rajasthan High Court on Tuesday gave a larger window of comfort to deposed state Congress unit chief Sachin Pilot by reserving its order on disqualification notices till July 24, upsetting Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot who is in a tearing hurry to stamp out rebellion.

For his part, Gehlot held a string of meetings on Tuesday dropping hints that he may soon test his strength in the Assembly. He also kept up his attack on Pilot despite the party high command asking him to temper his comments.

Gehlot is worried about the delay in verdict as he has to continue keeping his MLAs in Fairmont Hotel to prevent defection. "Pilot will approach the Supreme Court if the HC decides in favour of the Speaker. That is why Gehlot is pushing for a session to end the political drama," said a senior leader. CONTINUED ON: P7

India part of Oxford vaccine trial

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA & SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
@ New Delhi/Mumbai

THE Phase III clinical trial of a potential vaccine candidate against Covid-19, developed by Oxford University, will also involve more than 1,500 volunteers across many hospitals in India and could begin as early as the first week of August.

Its experimental vaccine AZD1222, which has been licensed to AstraZeneca, showed promising immune response in early-stage clinical trials, raising hopes that it could be available for public use by the end of the year.

Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, Pune, which has entered into a manufacturing partnership with AstraZeneca, told this newspaper that based on the success of the trials, his company was expecting to launch the vaccine by the year-end.

"We will start making one billion doses for India and other low-and-middle-income countries. I believe by the first quarter of next year it will start reaching the masses," he said. Poonawalla claimed it was too early to comment on the vaccine's price but "we will keep it under ₹1,000." CONTINUED ON: P7

Warning on valve masks

The Centre on Monday warned against inappropriate use of N95 masks with respiratory valves. "The use of valved respirator N95 masks ... does not prevent the virus from escaping out of the mask," it said

EXPRESS READ

Monsoon winds blow in from Bay of Bengal

Bengaluru: South and North Interior Karnataka witnessed heavy rainfall this month due to monsoon winds blowing in from the Bay of Bengal, instead of the Arabian Sea, baffling the Met. P5

Zoom to set up tech centre in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Popular video conferencing app Zoom will soon set up its first tech centre in Bengaluru, and immediately hire DevOps engineers, IT, security, and business operations staff. P5

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